

# HOW TO IDENTIFY THE GREAT WHITE BUTTERFLY

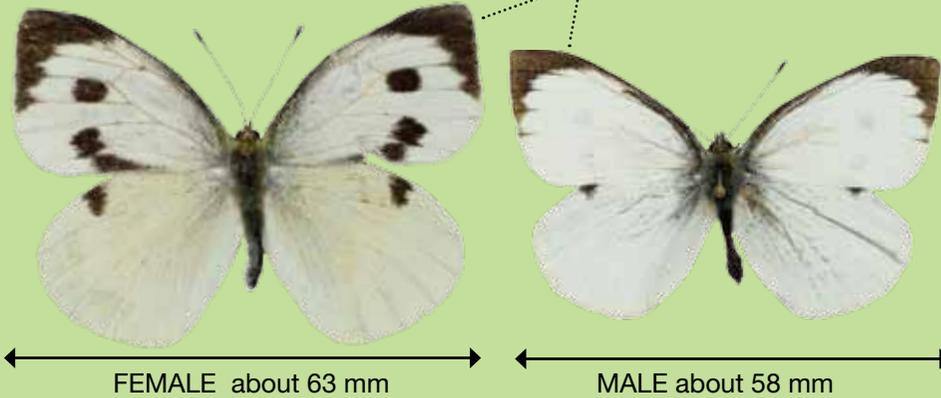


The adult great white butterfly looks similar to the small white butterfly though larger and with different black markings. Their caterpillars, eggs and pupae are different. Great white butterfly caterpillars and eggs are mostly found in groups, while the small white butterfly caterpillars and eggs are mostly found singly.

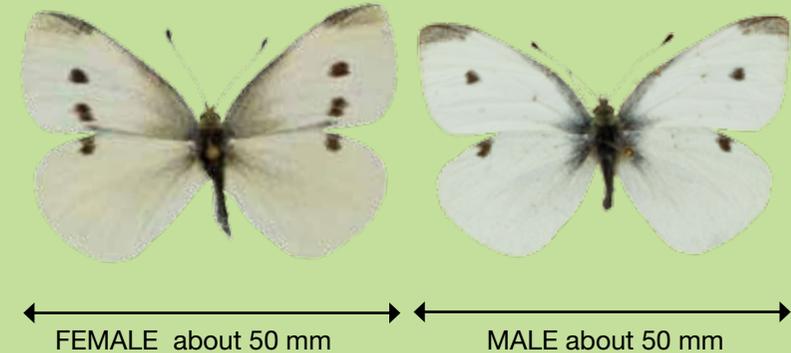
## Great white butterfly

Note: Black boomerang-shaped markings.

Adult butterflies >



## Small white butterfly



Eggs >

The great white butterfly's tiny, bright yellow eggs are usually in clusters of 30 to 100 and mainly found on the underside of the leaves of host plants.



The more cream-coloured eggs are found singly or in pairs on leaves.



Caterpillars/larvae >



Very young caterpillars are tiny and yellowish, with a shiny black head.

As caterpillars grow they become speckled black and greyish-green with three yellow lines along their bodies. Larger caterpillars have lots of noticeable pale hairs. Fully grown caterpillars are 50 mm long



The caterpillar is green with a faint yellow line along the top of its body. The caterpillars are usually found singly.

Pupae/chrysalises >

There are two forms of pupae: greyish-white, at left, or pale green, at right. Both forms are speckled with black and gold and are 25 mm long.



The pupae are various colours, from brown to cream to green.



If you believe you have seen any great white butterfly caterpillars, eggs or pupae please call the MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66

Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

# GREAT WHITE BUTTERFLY HOST PLANTS

These are some of the plants favoured by the great white butterfly on which its caterpillars and eggs can be found. Some of these plants may be growing wild in your garden without you even knowing.

## Brassica vegetables

**Broccoli**  
**Cabbage**  
**Cauliflower**  
**Kale incl. cavolo nero**  
**Brussels sprouts**  
**Turnip**  
**Bok choy**  
**Pak choy**  
**Mizuna**  
**Rocket**  
**Swede**  
**Watercress**  
**Mustard**  
**Wild brassica**  
**Choho**  
**Misome**  
**Rape**  
**Kohlrabi**  
**Horseradish**  
**Radish**

## Other plants

**Nasturtium**  
**Honesty** – also called money plant  
**Stock**  
**Wallflower**

The caterpillars and eggs are often found on honesty, also known as the money plant, which grows in many gardens. *Photo: Christmasnotebook.com*



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## To find out more

Visit [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) or contact:  
Great white butterfly eradication team  
Ph: (03) 546 3147  
Email: [greatwhitebutterfly@doc.govt.nz](mailto:greatwhitebutterfly@doc.govt.nz)  
Department of Conservation  
Nelson District Office  
186 Bridge Street  
Nelson 7010  
Ph: (03) 546 9335

## Nasturtium butterfly hotspots

The great white butterfly sets up breeding sites in large patches of overgrown nasturtium, which are being removed where possible to stop these breeding hotspots.

- Please remove or cut back nasturtium in your garden. If you don't want to fully remove nasturtium, please keep checking these plants for caterpillars and eggs and report any found to the MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66.
- Please report patches of wild, overgrown nasturtium to the great white butterfly team at DOC's Nelson District Office, phone (03) 546 3147 or email [greatwhitebutterfly@doc.govt.nz](mailto:greatwhitebutterfly@doc.govt.nz).



Nasturtium

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